

## Amendments to the Specification

Please make the following amendments to the specification. Material to be inserted in replacement paragraphs or sections is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [ [ ] ].

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 7 is a side view of the ring in figure 3 and 4<sub>1</sub> with sections A-A and B-B **XIII and XIV shown in figures 13 and 14, respectively.**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 12 is a side view of the ring in figure 8 and 9<sub>1</sub> with sections A-A and B-B **XV and XVI shown in figures 15 and 16, respectively.**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Due to the number of teeth 3, 4, 5, 6 and the distribution of the teeth, the locking can be applied ~~independent~~ **independently** of the ~~radial~~ **angular** position of the connection units 7, 8 with respect to each other after the threaded connection is completed. This is possible due to a different number of teeth 3, 6 on the first and second locking ring 1, 2 and their mutual positioning. The first 1 and second 2 ring have an even and odd number of teeth 3, 6, respectively, and a corresponding number of notches 41 **12**, 42 **11** in the drilling machine/drill string connection or other connection 7, 8. In this embodiment there are 17 and 18 teeth 3, 6 on the ~~second~~ and first **and second rings** ring, respectively. The teeth 3, 6 are evenly distributed

around the periphery of the rings as shown in Figures 2 and 4. However, the number of teeth 3, 6 may vary, as may their dimensions and distribution around-the periphery. However, changing these parameters will cause a variation of the system's tolerance for ~~radial dislocation~~ angular dislocation of the two connection units. The preferred ratios of dimension are shown in the appended figures.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 30 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The two locking rings 1, 2 in each connection engage each other via a plurality of axially oriented teeth 4, 5 on the first edge of the first 1 and second 2 locking ring, respectively. In this example there are four teeth 4, 5 on each ring 1, 2. When connecting the threaded sections, the two locking rings 1, 2 abut each other as tightly as possible with the four teeth 4, 5 in engagement in corresponding slots notches in the opposite ring. The locking rings 1, 2 are arranged to slide angularly and axially on shoulders 15, 16 on the connection units 7, 8. When the threaded sections are connected, the two locking rings 1, 2 are ~~spread apart and revolved on a shoulder~~ shoulders 15, 16 on the connection units to bring the teeth 3, 6 at the first 1 and second 2 rings other edge in ~~engagement alignment~~ alignment with the notches 44 12, 42 11 on the two connection units 7, 8. The rings can be ~~are then~~ spread partially apart manually, mechanically or by other means and ~~then be~~ locked by means of locking means 13, such as e.g. bolts arranged in cavities 14 in one of the locking rings 1, 2. The final angular position of the rings 1, 2 will depend on the ~~radial~~ angular orientation of the connection units with respect to each other. Due to the different number of teeth 3, 6 and their orientation there will always be a position where the two locking rings 1, 2 engage the notches 44 12, 42 11 in the two connection units 7, 8 simultaneously. Hence, the locking rings 1, 2 will engage each other, and ~~each of~~ the rings 1, 2 will engage the first and second connection ~~unit~~ units 7, 8, respectively.

The locking rings therefore provide a radial an angular interlocking of the two connection units 7, 8 with respect to each other, so that they can not be screwed apart.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 33 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The first locking ring 1 is provided with an odd number of teeth 3 on the side facing the connection unit 7. In the example in figure 3 the number of teeth 3 is seventeen, hence, the number of notches is seventeen. One half of a tooth 3 and one half of a notch together form a  $40,59^\circ$   $10,59^\circ$  sector of the ring's edge. Each tooth 3 has a height of 10 mm, and each notch corresponds to the teeth [[3]] 10 on the connection unit 7 with the necessary clearance.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The second locking ring 2 is provided with an even number of teeth 6 on the side facing the connection unit 8. In the example in figure 2 the number of teeth is eighteen, hence the number of notches is also eighteen. One half of a tooth 6 and one half of a notch together form a  $10^\circ$  sector of the ring's edge. Each tooth 6 has a height of 10 mm, and each notch corresponds to the teeth [[6]] 10 on the connection unit 8 with the necessary clearance.

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 6, between lines 12 and 13:

The locking rings 1, 2, are provided with teeth 3, 6 that have parallel flanks, and notches with slanted sides at the sides facing the connection units 7, 8. Similarly, the connection units 7, 8 are provided with teeth 9, 10 with slanted flanks, and notches 11, 12 with parallel sides. The teeth 3, 6, 9, 10 and the notches 11, 12 in the teeth that engage are formed to provide a sufficient clearance after engagement to absorb possible small deformations of the locking rings (1, 2).